

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 233832

E.O. 11652; GDS

TAGS:PFOR, LI, US, EAID

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S BILATERAL WITH LIBERIAN FORMIN DENNIS

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING DENNIS' EXPRESSION OF DISSATIS-
FACTION WITH BENEFITS TO LIBERIA FROM 128 YEAR OLD SPECIAL
RELATIONSHIP WITH US, SECRETARY ASSURED DENNIS HE COULD
INFORM PRESIDENT TOLBERT OF USG'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THIS
SPECIAL TIE AND OF USG'S INTENTION TO SUPPORT ITS FRIENDS.
SECRETARY AGREED SEND USG OFFICIAL TO LIBERIA FOR ASSESS-
MENT OF LIBERIA'S NEEDS, WITH FOCUS ON TECHNICAL TRAINING.
SECRETARY GAVE NON-COMMITTAL RESPONSE TO INVITATION ATTEND
TOLBERT REINAUGURAL. DENNIS CLEARLY DELIGHTED BY MEETING.
END SUMMARY

2. ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADORS PEAL, BROOKS-RANDOLPH AND
HARMON, AS WELL AS DEPUTY MINISTER DUNN AND A WASHINGTON
EMBASSY OFFICER, FORMIN DENNIS MET WITH SECRETARY SEPTEMBER
29 IN SECRETARY'S SUITE AT WALDORF TOWERS.

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3. AFTER EXCHANGE OF COMPLIMENTS AND GOOD WISHES, DENNIS

TOLD SECRETARY THAT 128 YEARS OF SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH US DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE HAD SAME IMPACT ON LIBERIA'S DEVELOPMENT AS COLONIAL LINKS HAD BROUGHT NEIGHBORING WEST AFRICAN STATES. DESCRIBING LIBERIA WITH ITS CAPITALIST ECONOMY AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY AS AFRICAN NATION CLOSEST TO US IDEAL, DENNIS TOLD SECRETARY THAT STRENGTHENING LIBERIA WOULD DEMONSTRATE TO OTHER AFRICAN NATIONS THAT US SYSTEM CAN WORK. HE IDENTIFIED HEALTH, ROADS AND EDUCATION AS SECTORS IN WHICH LIBERIA WOULD LIKE MORE US ASSISTANCE.

4. IN RESPONDING TO DENNIS, THE SECRETARY ACKNOWLEDGED SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND LIBERIA, ASSURING FORMIN THAT US WISHES TO STRENGTHEN THIS RELATIONSHIP. THEN DENNIS ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT TOLBERT INVITED SECRETARY TO ATTEND PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S INAUGURAL JANUARY 5. NOTING THAT HE HAS AN EXTREMELY HEAVY SCHEDULE, THE SECRETARY GAVE A NON-COMMITTAL RESPONSE.

5. DURING DISCUSSION OF SEVENTH SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY, DENNIS CONGRATULATED SECRETARY ON HIS SPEECH, AND BOTH AGREED THIS MEETING HAD BEEN MUCH MORE CONSTRUCTIVE IN TONE THAN PREVIOUS SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY. DENNIS ALSO COMPLIMENTED SECRETARY ON HIS MIDDLE EAST PEACEMAKING ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS ON HIS TOAST TO OAU REPRESENTATIVES AT SEPTEMBER 23 DINNER.

6. RETURNING TO THE ASSISTANCE THEME, DENNIS IDENTIFIED TECHNICAL TRAINING AS A FIELD WHERE LIBERIA WANTS ASSISTANCE FROM THE US, AND HE SUGGESTED SUCH TRAINING COULD BE PHASED INTO THE INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS CURRENTLY BEING EMPHASIZED. WHEN SECRETARY ASSURED DENNIS HE BELIEVED STRONGLY THAT USG SHOULD SUPPORT ITS FRIENDS, AND HE SAID DENNIS COULD INFORM PRESIDENT TOLBERT USG WOULD SUPPORT LIBERIA, DENNIS RESPONDED THAT AN INDICATION OF THIS ATTITUDE PRIOR TO THE REINAUGURATION "WOULD BE GREAT". HE SUGGESTED TO SECRETARY THAT AN ON THE SPOT ASSESSMENT BY A US OFFICIAL WOULD BE WELCOME SEQUEL TO THEIR MEETING. SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD LET DENNIS KNOW BEFORE DENNIS' DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK WHO MIGHT BE ABLE UNDERTAKE SUCH A MISSION TO LIBERIA, AND THAT HE WOULD

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SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE WHEN THOSE WHO UNDERTOOK THE MISSION RETURNED TO WASHINGTON. IN SAYING FAREWELL TO SECRETARY, DENNIS EXPRESSED OBVIOUS DELIGHT WITH OUTCOME OF THEIR MEETING.

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